

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
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-----024909 051015Z /21
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9207
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 06791

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PASS TO DOE

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: UK PLENARY STATEMENT,
MAY 4, 1978

CTB MESSAGE NO. 192

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED AT PLENARY
MAY 4 BY MR. P. CRADOCK, HEAD OF UK DELEGATION.
BEGIN TEXT:

WHEN WE BEGAN THESE NEGOTIATIONS LAST JULY, THE
POSITIONS OF OUR DELEGATIONS DIFFERED WIDELY, BOTH ON
THE FORM AND ON THE CONTENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN.
THE MAJOR ISSUES REMAIN THOSE CONCERNED WITH VERIFICATION,
DURATION AND PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. I WOULD NOT
CLAIM THAT WE HAVE ENTIRELY SOLVED THESE PROBLEMS BUT AS
I LOOK BACK OVER THE LAST NINE MONTHS I REALISE HOW FAR
WE HAVE PROGRESSED IN IDENTIFYING, NARROWING AND ELIMINA-
TING MANY OF THE DIFFERENCES WHICH FLOWED FROM THEM.

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IN OUR PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS, AS IN EARLIER ATTEMPTS
TO ACHIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN, VERIFICATION HAS BEEN
A CENTRAL ISSUE. FROM THE OUTSET, OUR THREE GOVERNMENTS
HAVE RECOGNISED THAT NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS SUPPLEMENTED
BY AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF SEISMIC DATA WOULD PROVIDE
THE PRIMARY BASIS OF VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS. SINCE

THEN I BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS WHICH WILL PROVIDE GREATER CONFIDENCE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TREATY. FIRST THERE WAS ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES THAT ON-SITE INSPECTION SHOULD BE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. SECONDLY, THERE WAS ACCEPTANCE BY THE SOVIET SIDE THAT THERE SHOULD BE INTERNAL SEISMIC INSTALLATIONS. FURTHERMORE, ALL THREE PARTNERS HAVE AGREED THAT THESE PROVISIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR THREE COUNTRIES. WE BUILT ON THESE FEATURES DURING THE LAST ROUND AND MUCH USEFUL AND DETAILED WORK WAS DONE. THERE ARE STILL PROBLEMS, BUT I BELIEVE THEY CAN BE OVERCOME.

THERE REMAIN THE OTHER PROBLEMS OF DURATION AND PNE. AS THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS POINTED OUT, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO BEGIN DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS ON DURATION AND PNE UNTIL THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE VERIFICATION SYSTEM HAVE BEEN AGREED. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT VERIFICATION CANNOT BE SETTLED IN ISOLATION. OUR POSITIONS ON VERIFICATION, DURATION AND PNE ARE INTER-RELATED. WE MUST THEREFORE LOOK AT THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES AS A WHOLE.

I HAVE MENTIONED THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE SINCE LAST JULY. OUR DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA KNOW OF THE PROBLEMS WE
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HAVE OVERCOME AND OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE ISSUES THAT CONFRONT US. BUT THERE ARE OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE URGING US TO WORK FASTER. IN OUR LAST SESSION I BELIEVE THAT WE SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED A SHORT BREATHING SPACE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE CCD BY THE TRIPARTITE STATEMENT WE MADE TO THEM. WE NOW FACE THE MORE DEMANDING PROSPECT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, WHERE OUR REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE CLOSELY QUESTIONED ABOUT WHEN AND IN WHAT FORM OUR TRIPARTITE WORK WILL BE COMPLETED. WE NOTED THE PASSAGES ABOUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN MR. BREZHNEV'S SPEECH TO THE KOMSOMOL CONGRESS ON 25 APRIL, WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON THE DEFINITE PROGRESS MADE OF LATE AND THE HOPE THAT OUR WORK CAN BE BROUGHT TO COMPLETION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE WELCOME THAT EMPHASIS AND SHARE THAT HOPE.

DURING THE LAST ROUND MY DELEGATION EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT THE POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS WOULD PLAY IN THE FORMULATION AND ELABORATION OF OUR TREATY DOCUMENTS ONCE THE BROAD OUTLINES HAD BEEN DETERMINED IN OUR PLENARY MEETINGS. DESPITE MUCH HARD AND USEFUL WORK, ESPECIALLY IN THE TECHNICAL WORKING

GROUP, THIS AIM HAS NOT YET BEEN FULLY ACHIEVED. MY DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT WE MUST ENSURE THAT OUR EXPERTS IN THESE TWO WORKING GROUPS ARE GIVEN THE TASKS FOR WHICH THEY ARE WELL QUALIFIED AND THAT WE MANAGE TO ACHIEVE THE PRACTICAL AND DETAILED WORK THAT WE ALL ACCEPT IS NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS.

AS MR. EDMONDS PROMISED IN HIS CONCLUDING STATEMENT ON 21 MARCH, MY DELEGATION HAS SPENT THE RECESS SEARCHING

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FOR CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS BEFORE US. IN SO DOING WE HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH AWARE OF OUR PARTNERS' POSITIONS AS FAR AS WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD THEM. WE HOPE THAT OUR WORK IN THE COMING DAYS WILL GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY OF DISCUSSING OUR NEW IDEAS WITH OUR PARTNERS AND OF HEARING THEIR OWN REVISED POSITIONS. MY GOVERNMENT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND WE HOPE WE CAN BRING THEM TO A SPEEDY AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. END TEXT. JOHNSON

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